EXHIBIT A

III. FLOWCHARTS

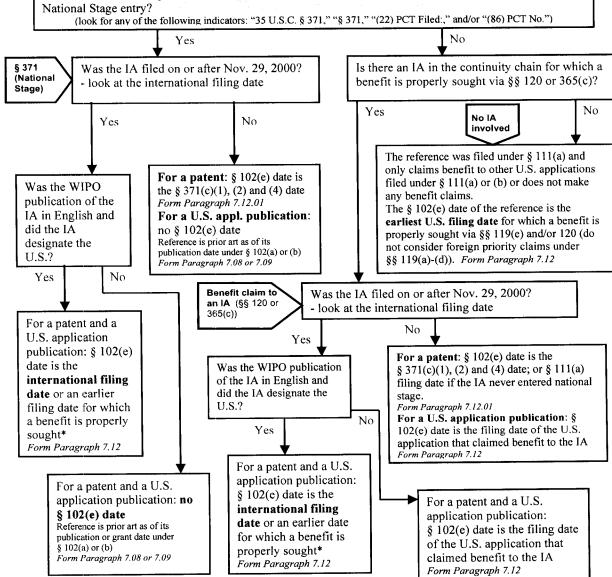
**>

FLOWCHARTS FOR 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) DATES:

Apply to all applications and patents, whenever filed

Chart I: For U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b) (includes publications of § 371 applications)

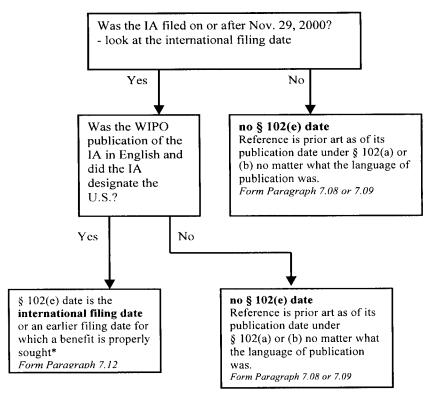
Is the reference a U.S. patent or U.S. application publication of an International Application (IA) after National Stage entry? (look for any of the following indicators: "35 U.S.C. § 371," "§ 371," "(22) PCT Filed:," and/or "(86) PCT No.")



^{*} Consider benefit claims properly made under § 119(e) to U.S. provisional applications, § 120 to U.S. nonprovisional applications, and § 365(c) involving IAs. Do NOT consider foreign priority claims.

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FLOWCHARTS FOR 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) DATES: Apply to all applications and patents, whenever filed Chart II: For WIPO publication of International Applications (IAs)



* Consider benefit claims properly made under § 119(e) to U.S. provisional applications, § 120 to U.S. nonprovisional applications, and § 365(c) involving IAs. Do NOT consider foreign priority claims.

Glossary of Terms:

U.S. patent application publication = pre-grant publication by the USPTO under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)

International application (IA) = an application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

§ 371 application = an IA that has entered the national stage in the U.S. (35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(1), (2) and (4))

November 29, 2000 = the effective date for the amendments to §§ 102(e) and 374

WIPO = World Intellectual Property Organization

WIPO Publication = a publication of an IA under PCT Article 21(2) (e.g., Publication No. WO 99/12345)

- § 111(a) = provision of the patent code that states the filing requirements for nonprovisional applications
- § 111(b) = provision of the patent code that states the filing requirements for provisional applications
- § 119(e) = provision of the patent code that allows for benefit claims to provisional applications
- § 119(a)-(d) = provision of the patent code that allows for priority claims to foreign applications
- § 120 = provision of the patent code that allows for benefit claims to nonprovisional applications
- § 365(c) = provision of the patent code that allows for benefit claims to international applications